

Washington, DC – Today Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta raising concerns regarding new information on the health effects of burn pits. Last week Danger Room [reported on a DOD memo](#) from 2011 which identified a serious health risk to troops at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan due to the smoke from burn pits.

In response to the release of this memo, Congressman Akin sent a letter today raising concerns about the implications of the memo and asking for a significant amount of additional data. Akin is also the lead sponsor of the Open Burn Pit Registry Act ( [H.R. 3337](#) ) which the House Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing on in April. The bill has significant bipartisan support and is endorsed by a wide range of veterans' organizations as an important first step toward addressing the health risks posed by burn pits.

The text of the letter can be found here: [Akin to Panetta on Burn Pits 05-30-2012.pdf](#)

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